Reverse Breach Planning

(FM 3-34.2)

Agenda

- Introduction
- Breaching Tenets
- Terms and Graphics
- Planning using the Reverse Breach Planning method
- Breach Execution Timing
- SOSRA and Breach Force Commitment
- Traffic Control
- Summary
- Conclusion

Obstacle Breaching

… is the employment of a combination of tactics and techniques to advance an attacking force to the far side of an obstacle that is covered by fire. It is perhaps the single, most difficult combat task a force can encounter.

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Breaching Tenets

Intelligence	**SITEMP, R&S Planning, OBSINTEL**
Breaching Fundamentals	**Suppress, Obscure, Secure, Reduce, Assault**
Breaching Organization	**Support Force(s), Breach Force, Assault Force**
Mass	**Combat Power, Engineers, Breach Ass**
Synchronization	**Detailed planning, Clear Subunit Tasks, C2, Rehearsals**

Intelligence

DOCTRINAL TEMPLATE

EBA & IPB

SITUATIONAL TEMPLATE

COA DEVELOPMENT

WARGAMING & EVENT TEMPLATE

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

DECISION POINTS

CCIR

COLLECTION PLAN

DISTRIBUTION PLAN

EXECUTION

SITEMP

A SITEMP should include --

- **Likely enemy EAs.**
- **The location and orientation of enemy forces.**
- **Counterattack OBJs and location of enemy reserve elements.**
- **The location and range of all direct- and indirect-fire systems.**
- **Enemy obstacle systems, including tactical and protective obstacles and SCATMINEs; depicting CMOB capability.**
- **The enemy's use of NBC weapons, including the ranges of delivery systems.**
- **The location of enemy target-acquisition assets.**
- **Likely avenues of approach, incl. fixed- and rotary-wing A/C.**
- **Positioning of enemy ADA assets.**

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Typical CCIR for Breaching Operations

- Location, composition, and orientation of the obstacle and available bypasses in the vicinity of the reduction area and the point of penetration (PIR)
- Location and composition of enemy forces that are capable of employing direct- and indirect-fires on the point of breach (PIR)
- Maintenance status and location of all reduction assets (FFIR)
- Status of commitment criteria for the breach force (PIR and FFIR)

OBSINTEL

“An unverified enemy template can lead to disaster because the force may aim an attack at the wrong place. Units may deploy to reduce obstacles early, wasting mission time to feel their way into nonexistent obstacles; or they may *blunder* into an unexpected obstacle or an enemy EA.”

FM 3-34.2 para. 1-6

OBSINTEL

Examples of information that is needed to fulfill obstacle IR include --

- **The location of existing and reinforcing obstacles.**
- **The orientation and depth of obstacles.**
- **Conditions of the soil (in the case of a minefield) to determine the ability to use tank plows.**
- **The presence, location, and type of wire.**
- **Lanes and Bypasses.**
- **The composition of the minefield (types [AT/AP/AHD] and disposition of mines).**
- **Types of mines and fuses.**
- **The location of enemy indirect fire systems that can fire into the breach area.**
- **The composition of complex obstacles.**
- **Areas between successive obstacle belts.**

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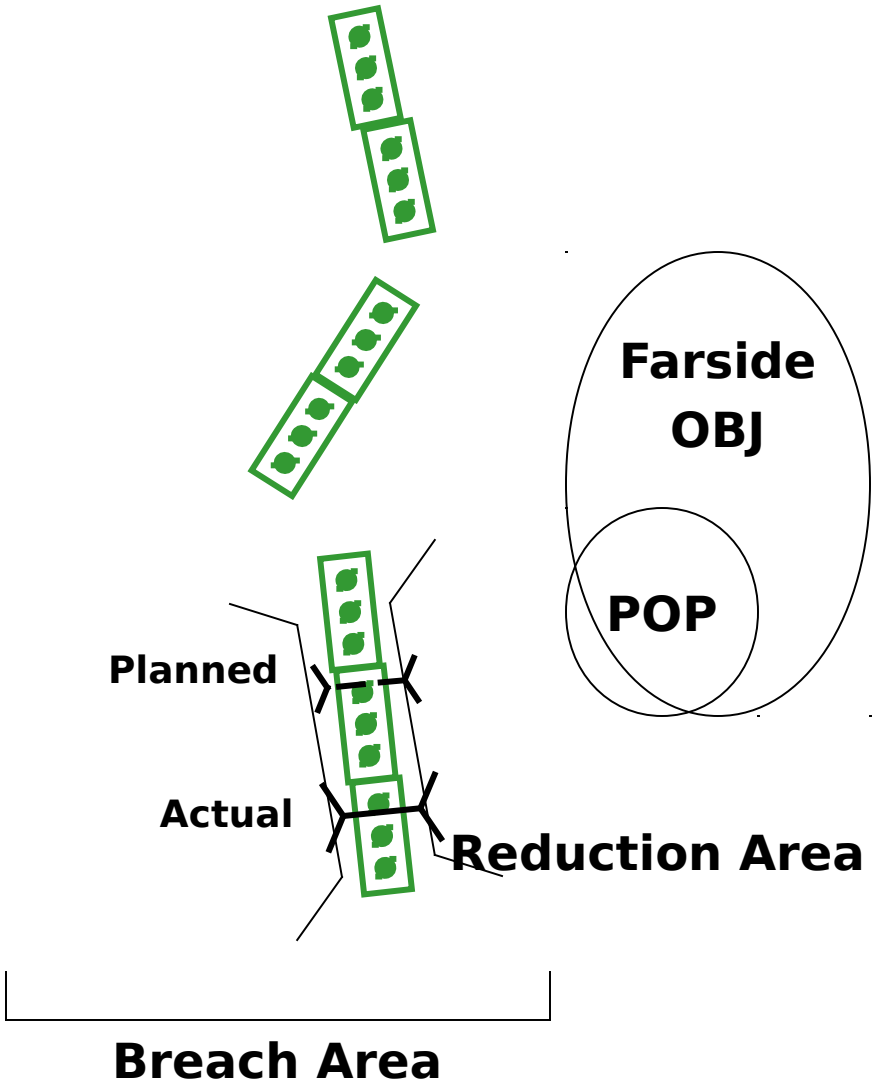
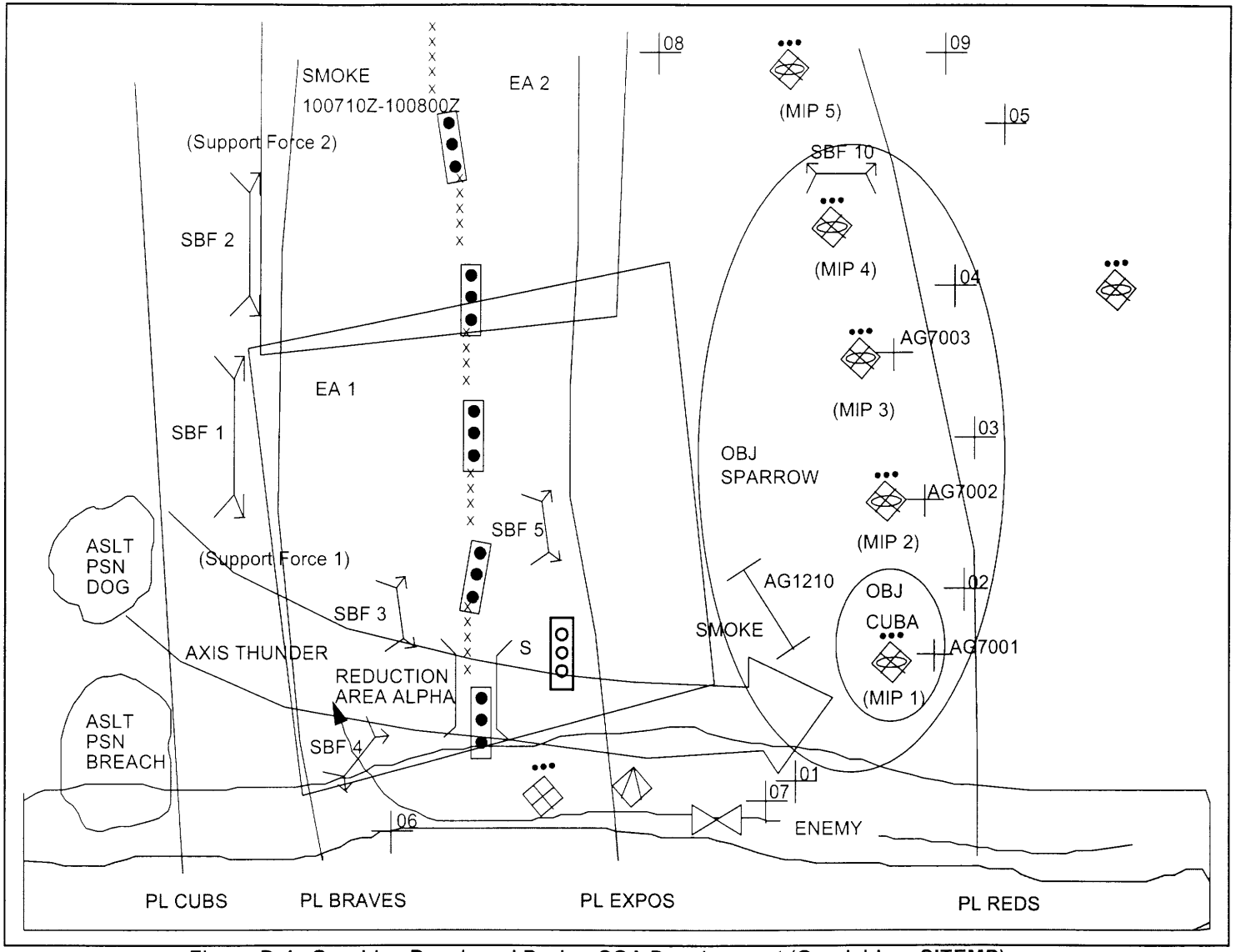
Terms and Graphics

- **Breach Area.** The area that includes room for the Support and Breach Forces and allows enough room for the Assault Force to deploy. Not to be confused with the…
- **Reduction Area.** The area under control of the breach force commander including all the points of breach.
- **Point of Penetration (POP).** The location, on the ground, where enemy forces will be penetrated. Not to be confused with the…
- **Point of Breach (POB).** The location, at an obstacle, where a lane will be created. Initially planned and refined to where Breach force commander decides upon contact with the obstacle.



Graphics from COA Development w/ SITEMP



Reverse Breach Planning

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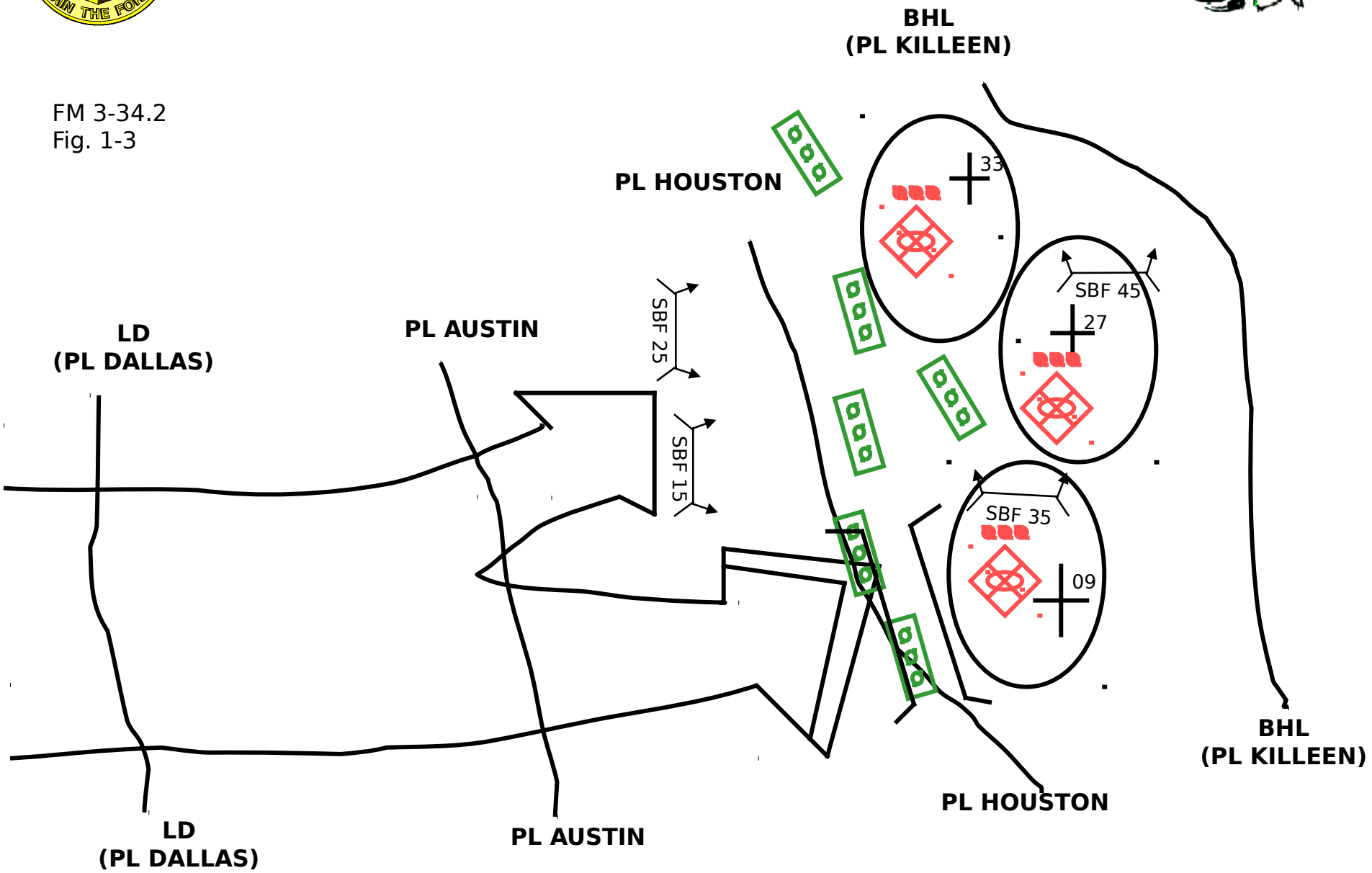
Fig. 1-3



STEP BY STEP PLANNING

1. Conduct Mission Analysis and receive Commander's Guidance
2. Place Brigade Maneuver Graphics over the SITEMP
3. Place a blank piece of acetate on top or make a copy of the graphics so the only set of brigade graphics don't get ruined
4. Plan actions on the objective to determine the requirements for the Assault Force (3:1 ratio at the POP) and indirect fires Plan TRPs and targets to support it and determine if any direct fire control measures will be required to prevent fratricide

Assault Force
Tasks and Responsibilities

- **Seize the far side objective.**
- **Reduce protective obstacles.**
- **Prevent enemy direct fires from interfering with follow-on forces as they pass through lanes.**
- **Provide clear routes to the BHL for follow-on forces.**
- **Conduct battle hand-over with follow-on forces.**

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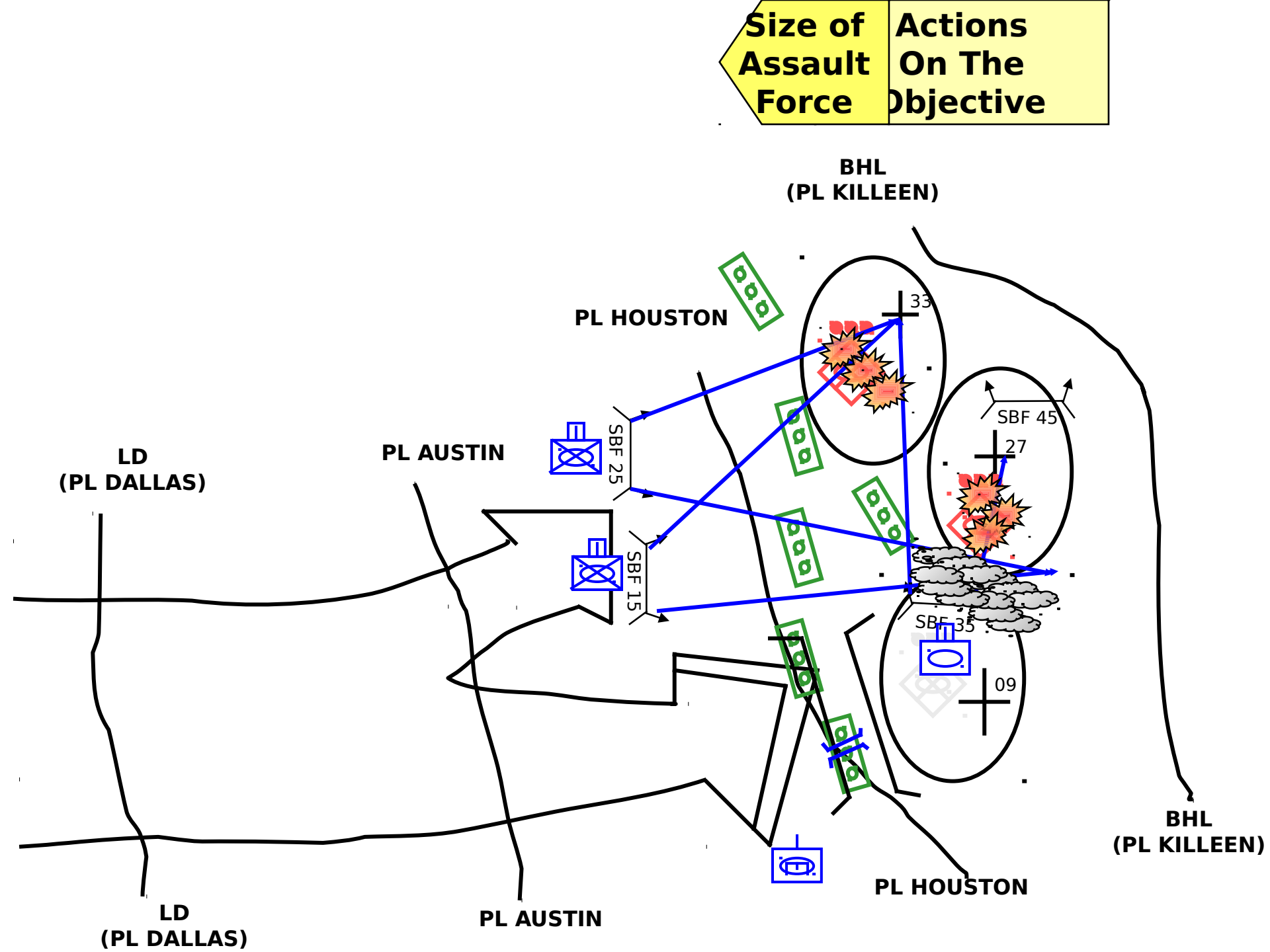
Size of Assault Force
Actions On The Objective
BHL
(PL KILLEEN)
PL HOUSTON
33
SBF 45
27
LD
(PL DALLAS)
PL AUSTIN
SBF 25
SBF 15
SBF 35
09
BHL
(PL KILLEEN)
PL HOUSTON
LD
(PL DALLAS)
PL AUSTIN

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5. **Plan actions at the obstacle(s) to include what is required for local suppression and security and the assets required for breaching**

Breach Force
Tasks and Responsibilities

- **Reduce lanes in the obstacle.**
- **Provide local security (far side and near side).**
- **Provide additional suppression of enemy forces overwatching the obstacle.**
- **Mark and report the location of created lanes.**
- **Assist the passage of the assault force through created lanes.**

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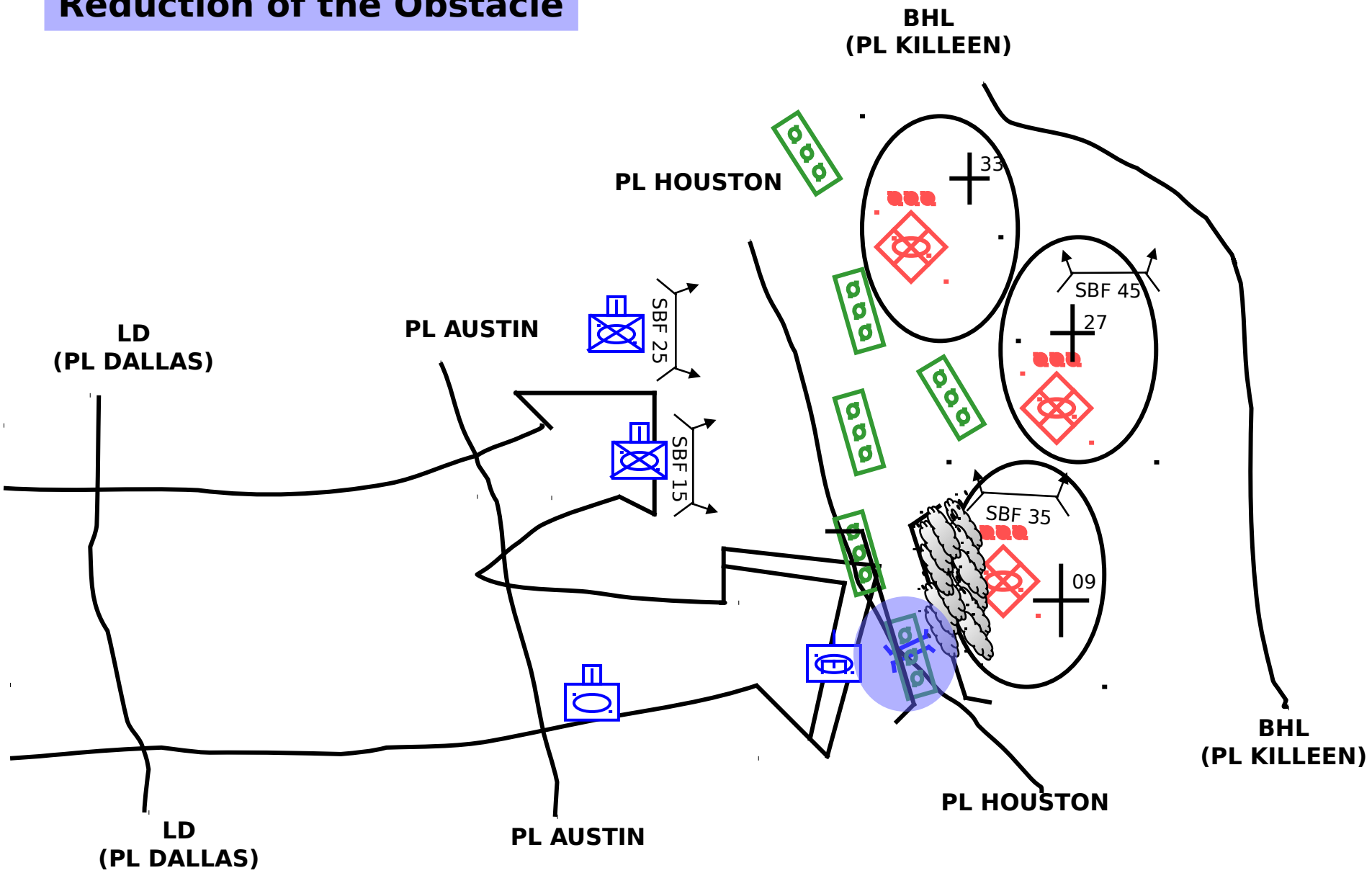
Local Security
Reduction of the Obstacle



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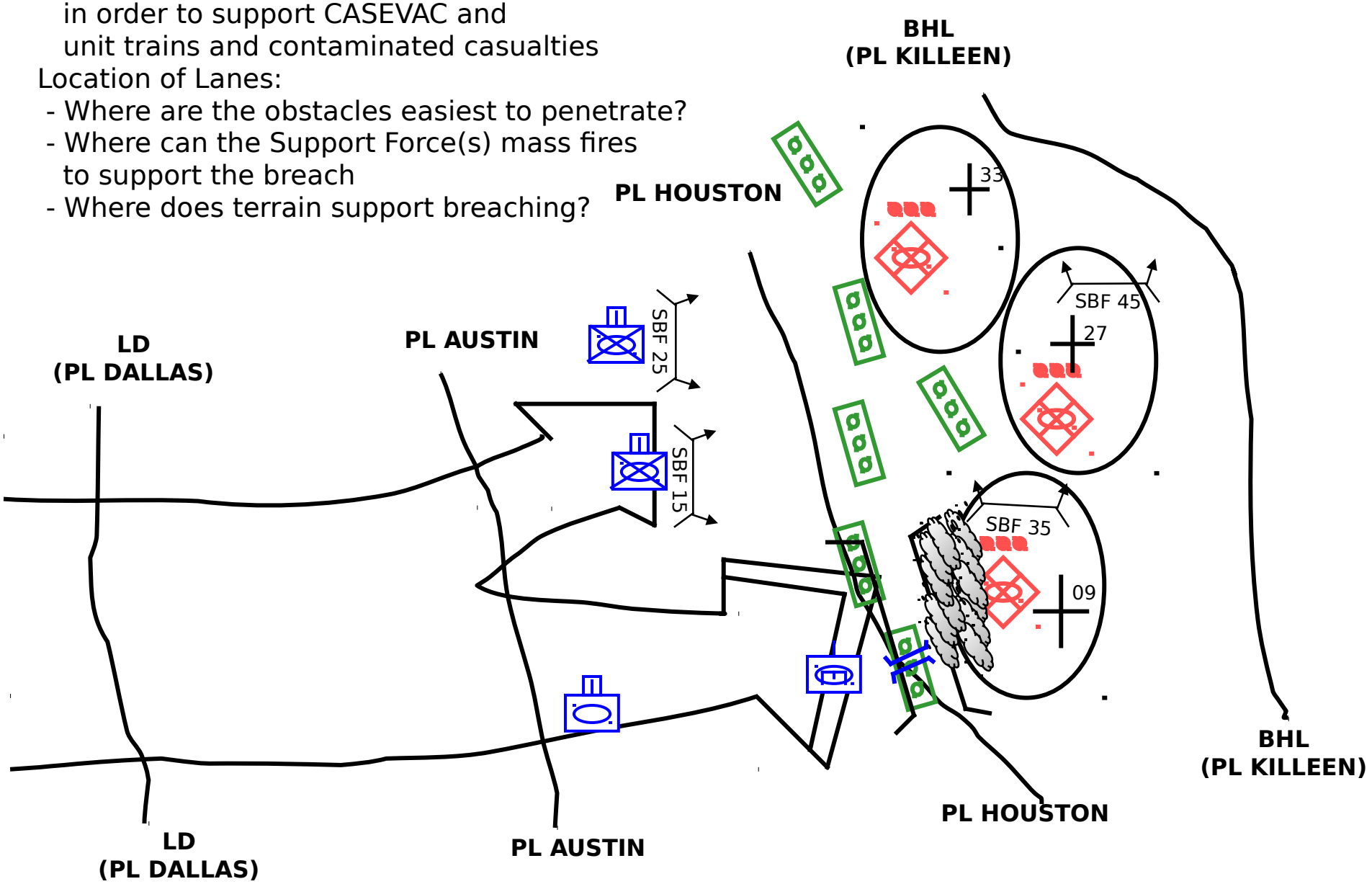
6. **Plan the number and location of lanes (POBs)**

Number & Location of Lanes | **ctions at bstacles** | **Size of Assault Force** | **Actions On The Objective**

Number of Lanes:
- How large is the Assault Force?
- What is the plan for two-way traffic in order to support CASEVAC and unit trains and contaminated casualties

Location of Lanes:
- Where are the obstacles easiest to penetrate?
- Where can the Support Force(s) mass fires to support the breach
- Where does terrain support breaching?



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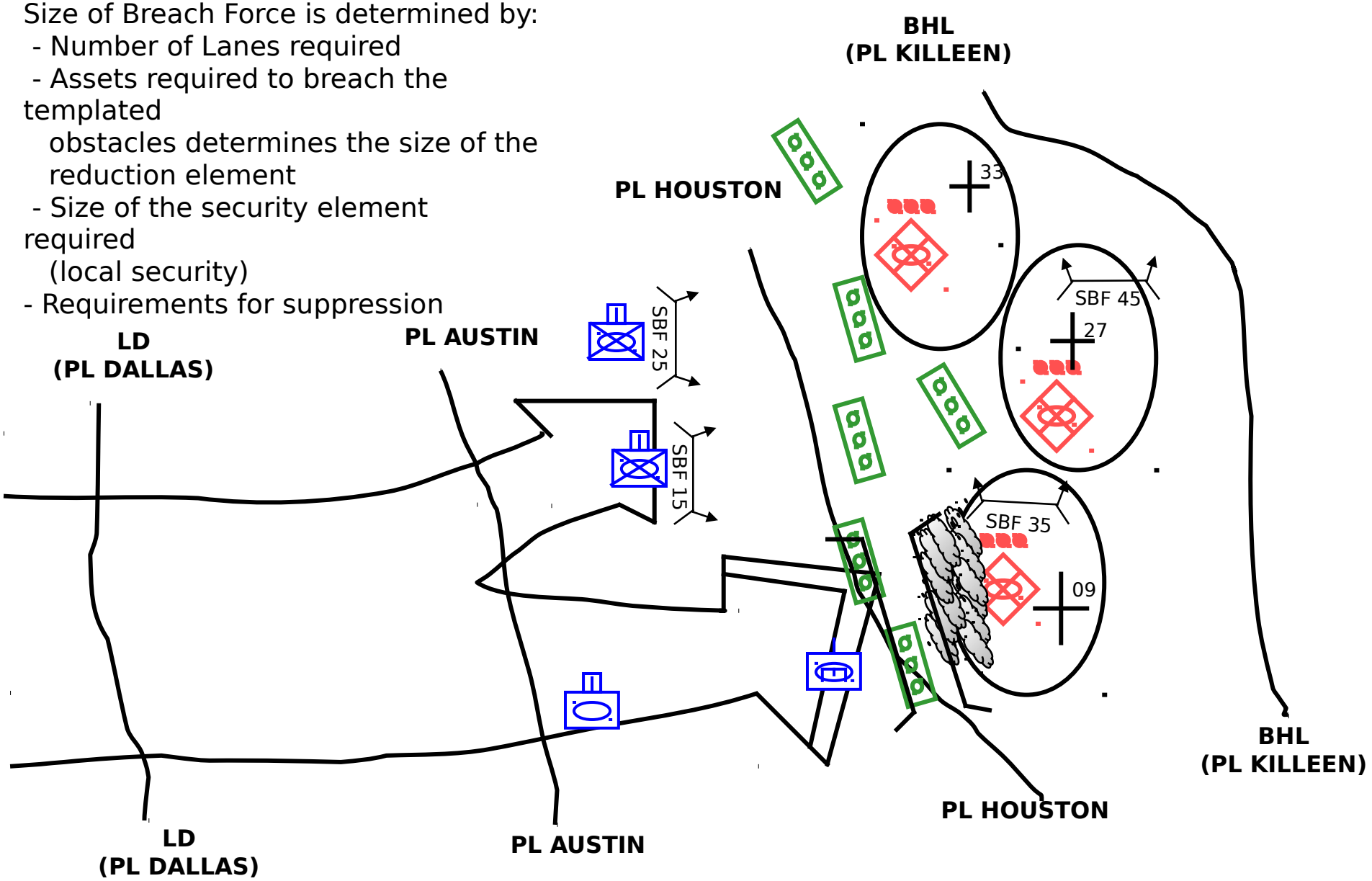
6. Plan the number and location of lanes (POBs)
7. **Determine the size of the Breach Force based on Steps 5 & 6**

Size of Breach Force | Number Location of Lanes | Actions at Obstacles | Size of Assault Force | Actions On The Objective

Size of Breach Force is determined by:
- Number of Lanes required
- Assets required to breach the templated obstacles determines the size of the reduction element
- Size of the security element required (local security)
- Requirements for suppression



Breaching Equipment

TYPE	METHOD	AVAILABILITY	CAPABILITY	LIMITATIONS / COMMENTS
EXPLOSIVE	MICLIC	4 per Cbt Engr Co	14 x 100m	20 min. to reload, limited effectiveness for magnetic influence and double impulse fusing, broken terrain, skip zone
	Engr Squad	6 per Cbt Engr Co; line main, Bangalore, satchel charges	10 x 100 m 1 x 16 m	Surface laid only; direct and indirect fire vulnerability; AP mines / AHD
MECHANICAL	MCB	12 per Bn MCM set	2 x 58" / 4.5 m	10 kph when plowing
	MCR	4 per Bn MCM set	2 x 44" / 4 m	15 kph detection / proofing
	M9 ACE	7 per Cbt Engr Co	Herringbone skim	Blade damage
	AVLB	4 per Cbt Engr Co	18 m MLC 60	
	Grappling Hook	2 per squad	25 m toss	

Breach Asset Allocation

	MINES			MINES THEN WIRE OR WIRE THEN MINES		
PRIORITY	BREACH	PROOF	MARK	BREACH	PROOF	MARK
1	MICLIC	TANK PLOW	LINE SQUAD	MICLIC	TANK PLOW	LINE SQUAD
2	TANK PLOW	LINE SQUAD		TANK PLOW	LINE SQUAD	
3	LINE SQUAD	MCR		LINE SQUAD	MCR	
4	ACE	ACE		ACE	ACE	
5						

	WIRE			TANK DITCH		
PRIORITY	BREACH	PROOF	MARK	BREACH	PROOF	MARK
1	LINE SQUAD	LINE SQUAD	LINE SQUAD	ACE	LINE SQUAD	LINE SQUAD
2	TANK PLOW	TANK PLOW		AVLB		
3	AVLB	ACE				
4	MICLIC					
5	ACE					
6						

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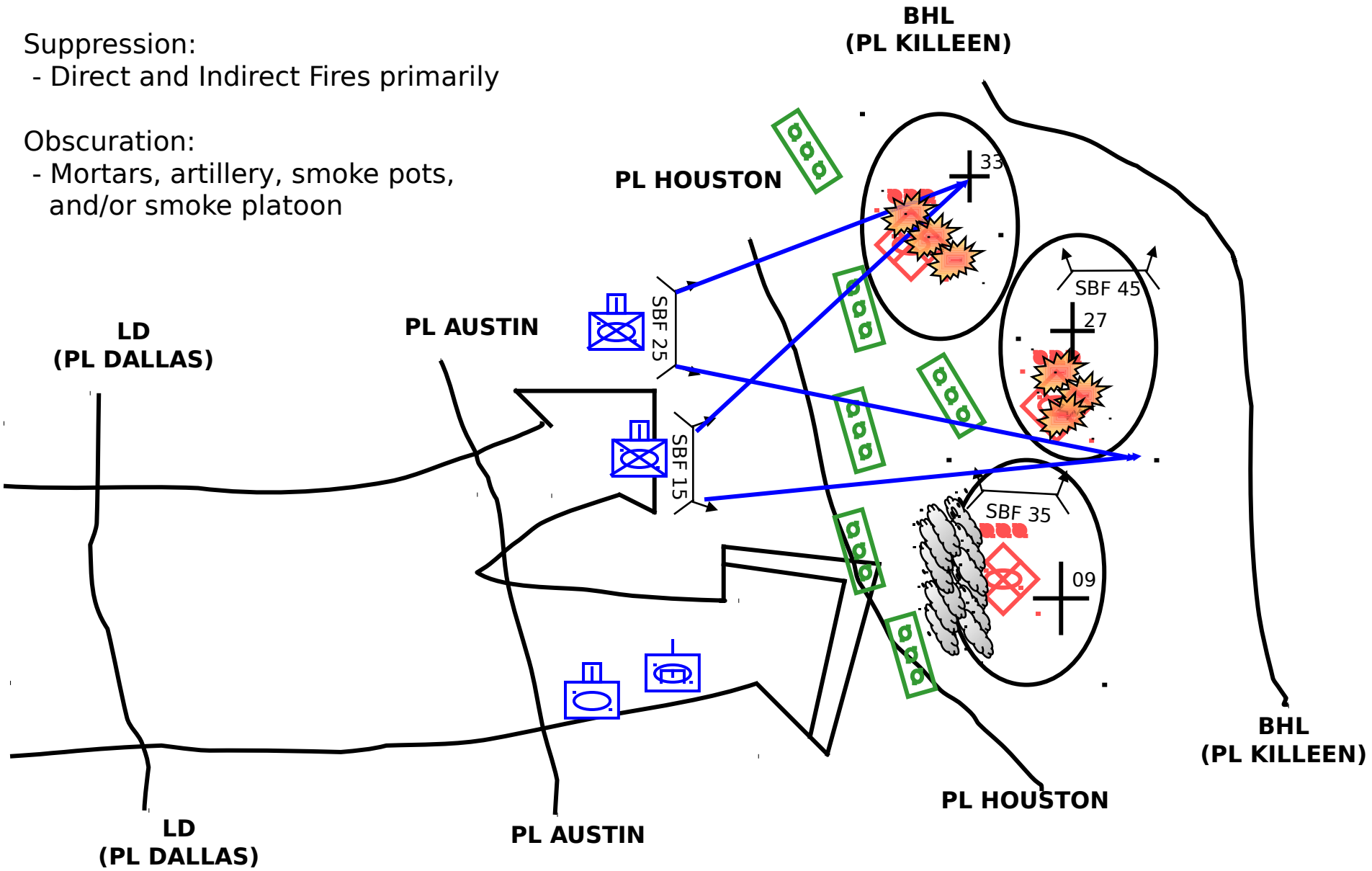
5. Plan actions at the obstacle(s) to include what is required for local suppression and security and the assets required for breaching
6. Plan the number and location of lanes (POBs)
7. Determine the size of the Breach Force based on Steps 5 & 6
8. **Determine the size and configuration of the overwatching enemy From the SITEMP to determine the amount of suppression and obscuration required to set the conditions. Plan targets and smoke assets. Plan direct fire control measures that allow flexibility**

Amount Of Suppression and Obscuration | Size of Breach Force & Number Location of Lanes | Actions at Obstacles | Size of Assault Force | Actions On The Objective

Suppression:
- Direct and Indirect Fires primarily

Obscuration:
- Mortars, artillery, smoke pots, and/or smoke platoon



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9. **Determine the size of the support force required to suppress the overwatching forces (generally 2:1 ratio)**

Support Force
Tasks and Responsibilities

- **Suppress enemy elements capable of placing direct-fires on the point of breach to protect the breach force.**
- **Suppress enemy elements capable of placing direct-fires on the assault force.**
- **Call for and adjust indirect-fires, including obscuration.**
- **Fix enemy forces that are capable of repositioning.**

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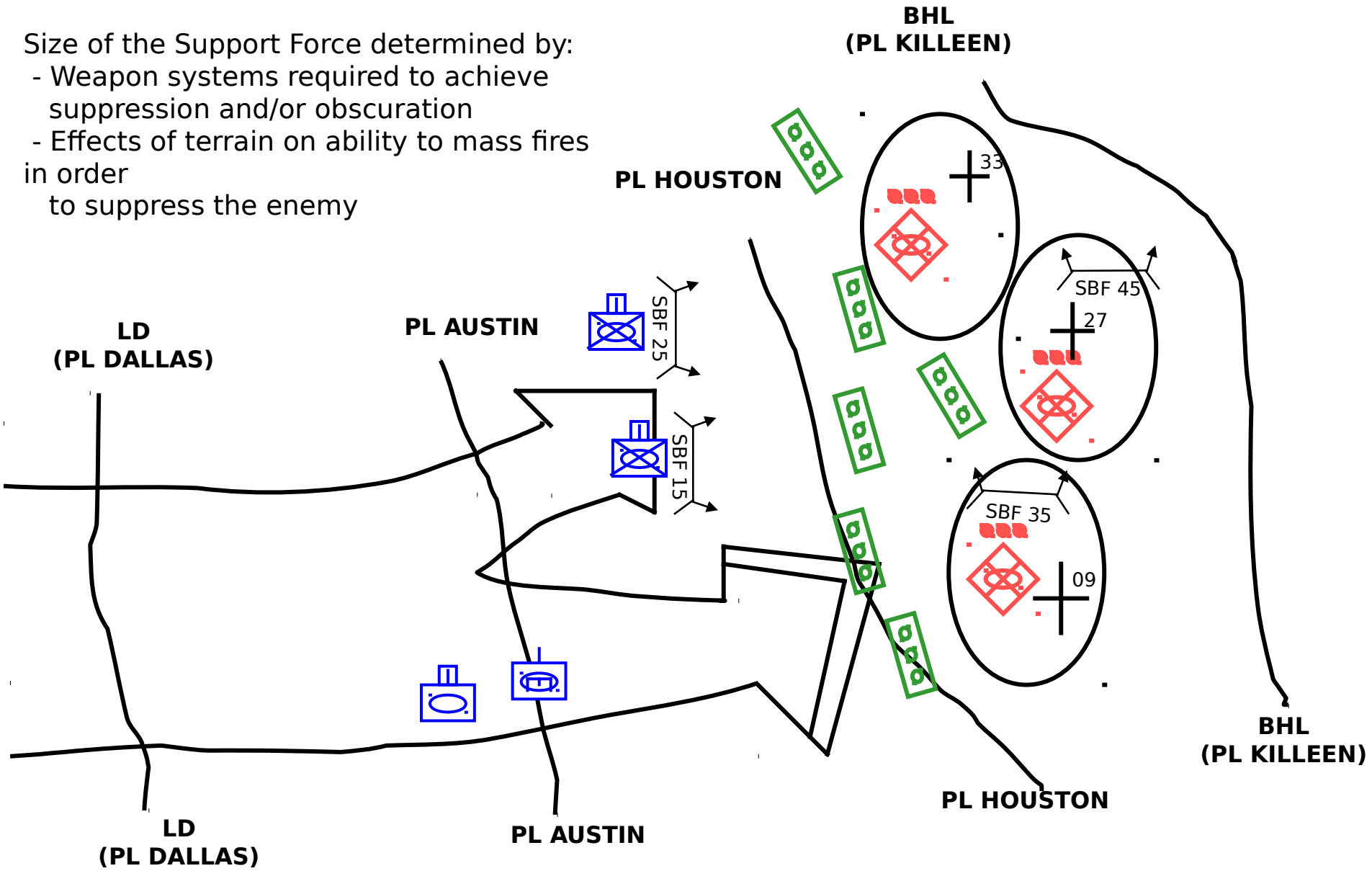
Size of Support Force	Amount Of Suppression and Obscuration	Size of Breach Force	&	Number Location of Lanes	Actions at Obstacles	Size of Assault Force	Actions On The Objective

Size of the Support Force determined by:
- Weapon systems required to achieve suppression and/or obscuration
- Effects of terrain on ability to mass fires in order to suppress the enemy

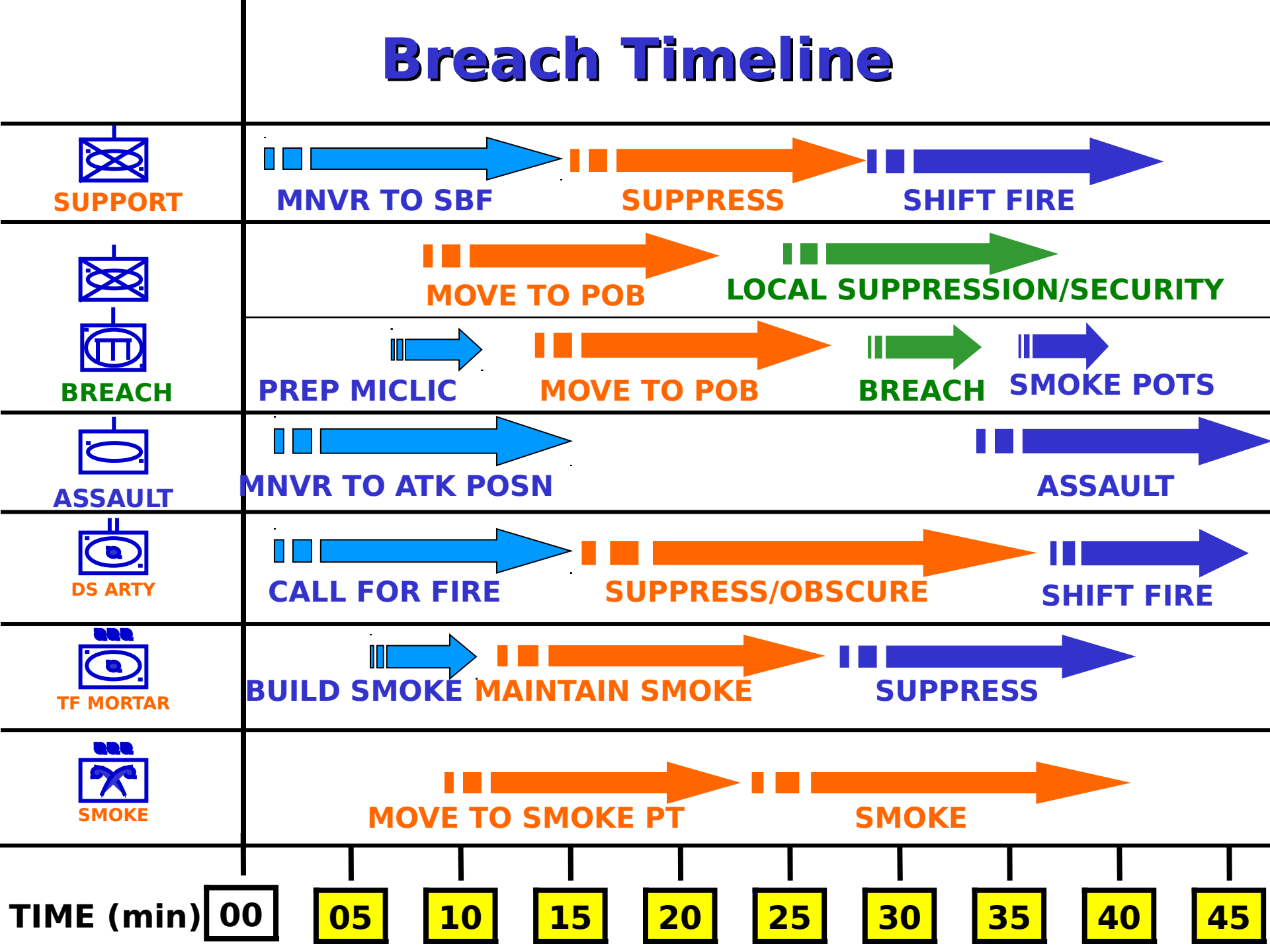


Breach Complexity

Action	Element	Time (Minutes)	Controlled By
Develop the situation (verify the boundary of the enemy obstacle system).	Force in contact	M to 2	S3
Maneuver the support force into the overwatch position.	Support	M + 2 to 15	Support cdr
Maneuver the assault force into the covered assault position.	Assault	M + 2 to 15	Assault cdr
Call for artillery.	DS artillery	M + 2 to 15	FSO
Build smoke.	Mortars	M + 5 to 10	FSO
Suppress the enemy with direct fires.	Support	M + 15 to 29	Support cdr
Suppress the enemy with artillery fires.	DS artillery	M + 10 to 29	FSO
Maintain smoke.	DS artillery/mortars	M + 10 to 30	FSO
Maneuver the breach force to the breach location.	Breach	M + 20 to 23	Reduction cdr
Reduce the obstacle, and prepare two lanes.	Breach	M + 23 to 30	Engineer ldr
Place smoke pots.	Breach	M + 23 to EOM	Reduction cdr
Shift direct fires off the objective.	Support	M + 29 to 30	Assault cdr
Shift indirect fires beyond the objective.	DS artillery	M + 29 to 30	Assault cdr
Assault to destroy the enemy on the far side of the obstacle.	Assault	M + 30 to 45	Assault cdr
Reorganize to continue the mission.	TF	M + 45 to EOM	S3
NOTE: M = Contact with the obstacle			

FM 3-34.2 Table 1-2

Breach Timeline



SOSRA Criteria Technique

Decisions	Criteria
•Decide the point of penetration and reduction sites	•Recon force identifies obstacles and enemy positions
•Commence suppression and obscuration fires	•Observers are in position •Support force crosses Phase Line “XX”
•Support force occupies the support by fire (SBF) position	•Critical Friendly Zone in place over the SBF Position •Obscuration in place to screen support force movement •Support force maintains more than 70% combat power
•Commit the breach force	•Suppression and obscuration is adjusted and effective •CFZ in place over reduction site •Engineer preparations complete •Fire control measures are in effect •ADA coverage is set •CASEVAC assets prepared to accept casualties
•Commit the reduction element	
•Commit the assault force	•Breach force near-side security is in position •Security element controls the reduction site by force or fires

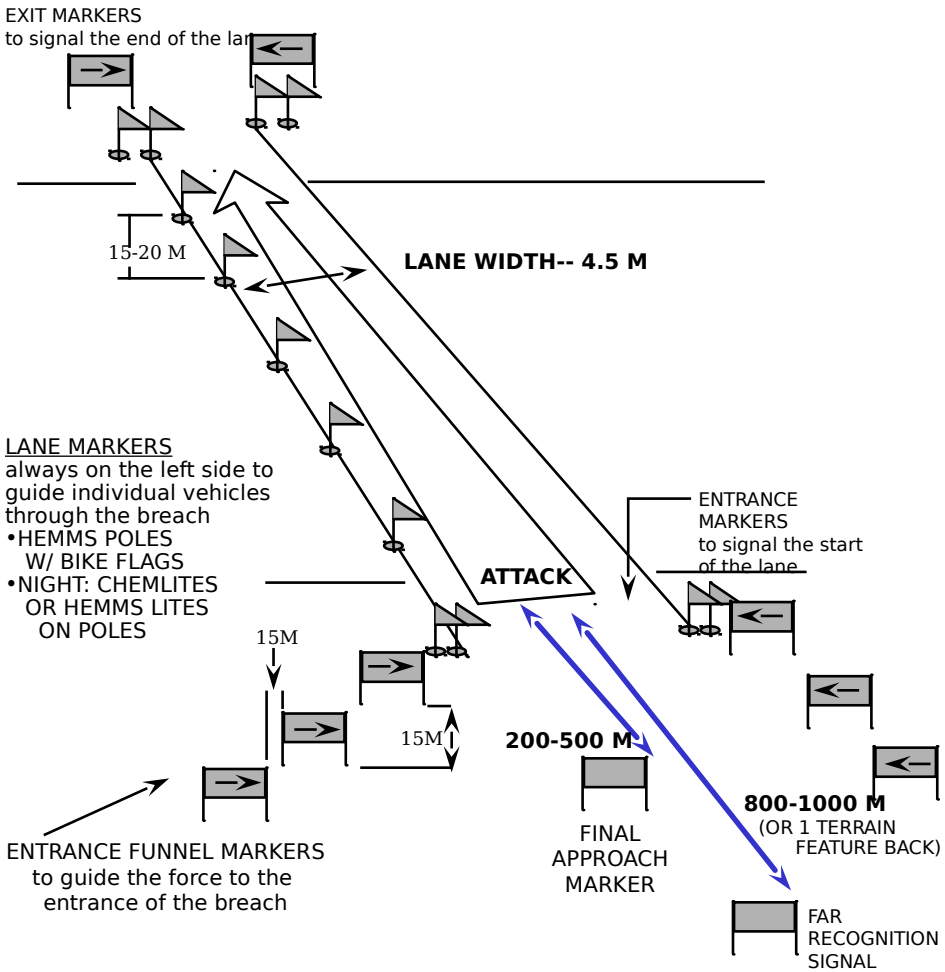
Commitment of the Breach Force

The commitment of the breach force is a critical decision point that must be included in the DST. Commitment criteria elements may include the following --

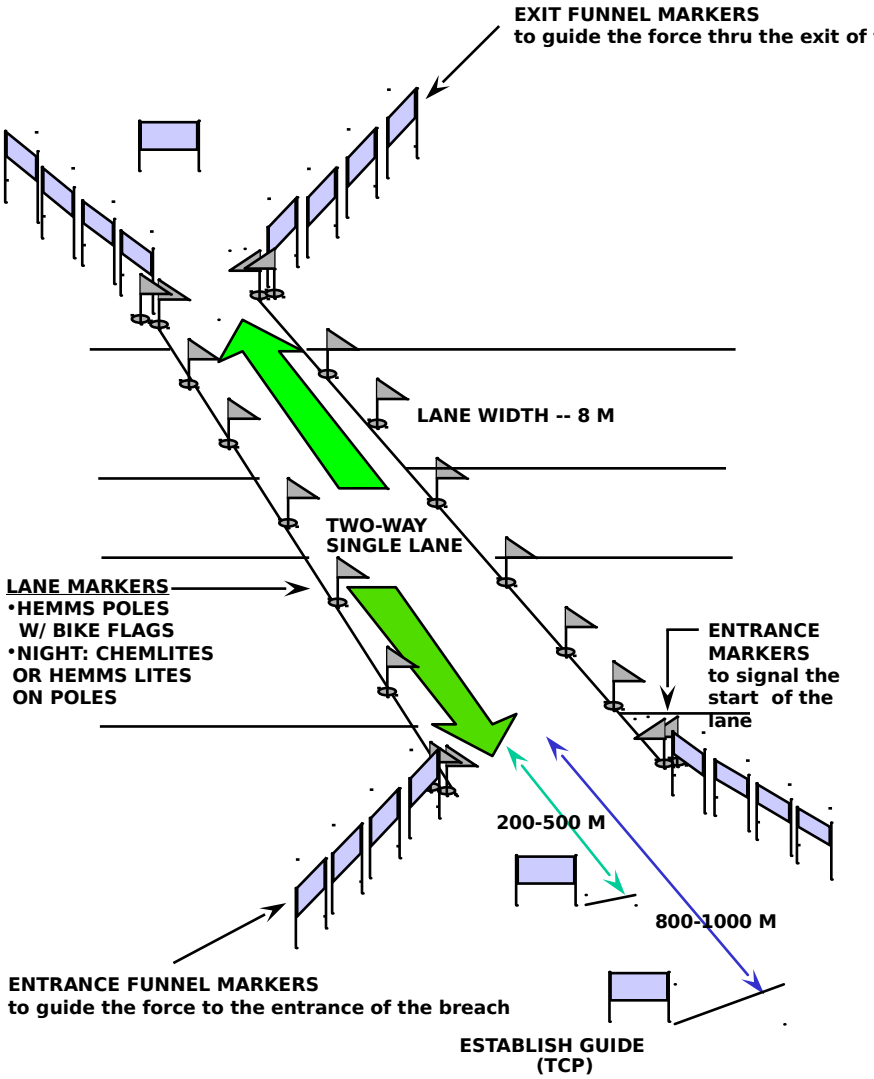
- **Destruction of certain vehicles or a certain number of vehicles.**
- **Effective suppression of the enemy by the support force.**
- **Effective obscuration of the enemy.**
- **Remaining strength of the support force.**
- **Remaining reduction assets available to the breach force.**
- **Activation of CFZ.**
- **Air-defense assets in position.**

Lane Marking

BREACH LANE MARKING - INITIAL



BREACH LANE MARKING - INTERMEDIATE



Traffic Control

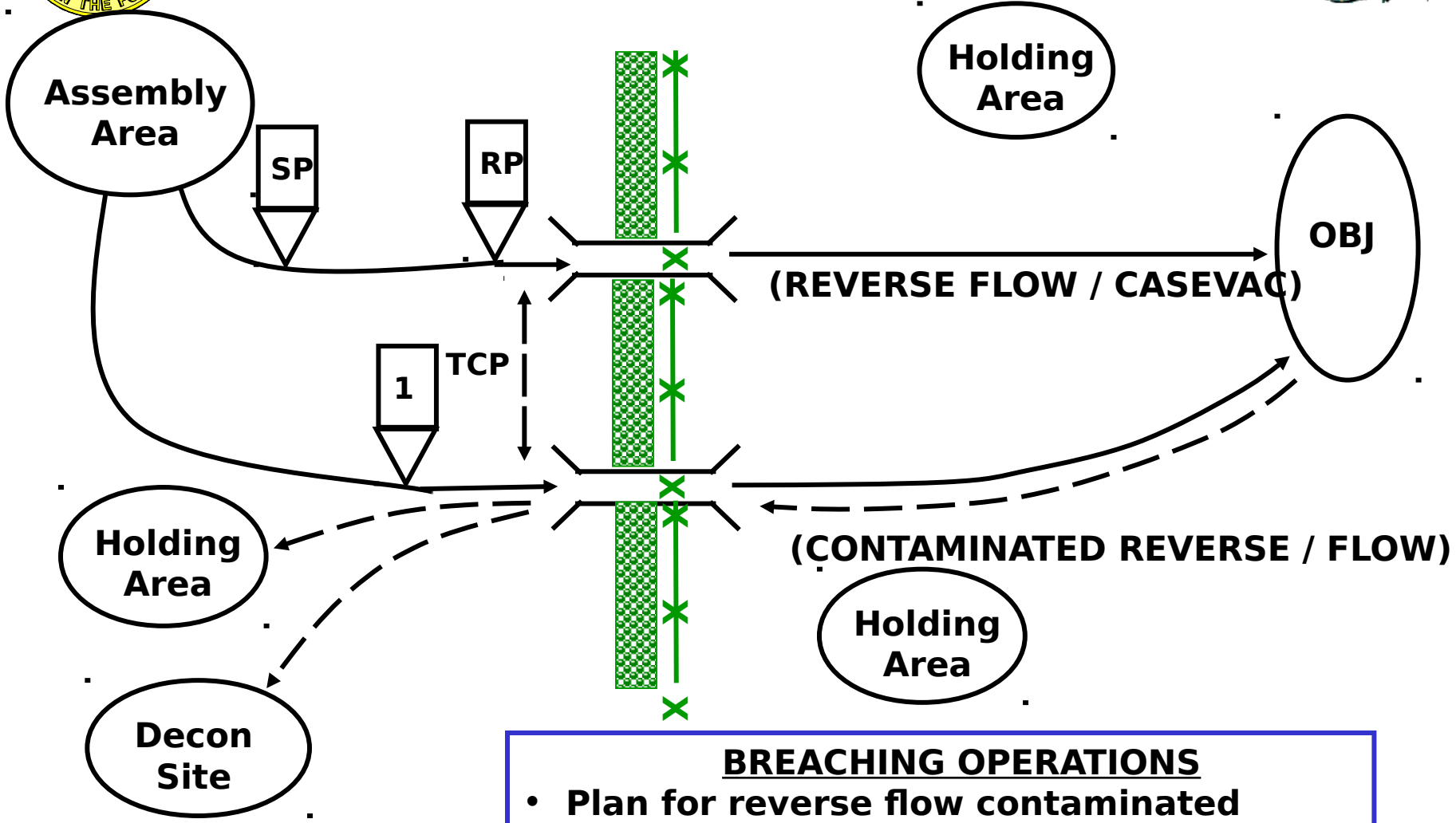
Plan for traffic control points or guides with communication equipment to assist commanders with traffic control

Traffic control point or guide gives the approaching commander the azimuth and distance to the final approach marker and a description of the marker. *This gives the commander time to adjust his plan for the lane passage and react to the enemy situation.*

***"A Way"* - Use a reconnaissance element to follow the breach force and lead the assault force through the lane**

FM 3-34.2 para. 3-11 & 3-12

"A Way" to Conduct Movement Control



BREACHING OPERATIONS

- **Plan for reverse flow contaminated traffic**
- **CASEVAC / reverse flow traffic operations through breach lanes are immediately**

Summary

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